

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00215 211248Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CA  
SUBJECT: LEVESQUE COOLS PQ LEFT

REF: QUEBEC A-04

1. PQ IS PREPARING FOR REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN BY ATTEMPTING TO MUZZLE ITS RADICAL WING WHILE LAUNCHING INTENSIVE PROVINCE-WIDE DRIVE TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION. RENE LEVESQUE, AT WEEKEND MEETING OF PQ NATIONAL COUNCIL IN GRANBY, APPEALED FOR MODERATION AND A REJECTION OF "ISMS." POWER IS UNCOMPLICATED WHEN SEEN FROM VIEWPOINT OF OPPOSITION, HE SAID. "THE CLOSER ONE COMES TO DECISIONS, THE MORE BALANCE, LUCIDITY AND MATURITY BECOME NECESSARY."

2. IN DIRECT AND OPEN CHALLENGE TO GOQ, MILITANT ELEMENTS AT MEETING CALLED FOR RELEASE OF RECENTLY IMPRISONED LABOR UNION LEADERS, ACCUSED POLICE OF "EXTREME BRUTALITY" IN DEALING WITH COMMONWEALTH PLYWOOD DEMONSTRATION, CALLED ON CIVIL SERVICE MINISTER TO SHOW "GOOD FAITH" IN NEGOTIATIONS IN DISPUTE WITH CIVIL SERVICE UNION, AND ACCUSED FINANCE MINISTER OF UNCALLED FOR VOLTE-FACE IN SALES TAX DISPUTE WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. MAJORITY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL  
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SUPPORTED PRIME MINISTER AND HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES IN EASILY OVERCOMING CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT FROM RADICAL WING. HOWEVER, DISSATISFACTION WITH MODERATE DIRECTION OF GOQ REMAINS STRONG AMONG ELEMENTS WITHIN PARTY. HOWEVER, POWER OF MILITANTS TO OPPOSE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISHED BY ABSORPTION OF LARGE PROPORTION OF THEIR LEADERS INTO GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.

3. LEVESQUE ALSO LAUNCHED REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN.  
AN INITIAL DOLS 500,000 WILL BE SPENT ON INFORMATION PROGRAM  
AIMED AT PROMOTING SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION AT RIDING LEVEL.  
DECISION TO HOLD SERIES OF POLICY LEVEL MEETINGS TO PREPARE FOR  
REFERENDUM ANNOUNCED. THESE WILL INCLUDE TWO DAY  
MINISTERIAL STRATEGY SESSION IN AUGUST, A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER  
14-15 OF PQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CAUCUS TO DISCUSS REFERENDUM  
CAMPAIGN AND ANOTHER NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING SEPT  
24-25 TO PUT "FINAL TOUCHES" ON REFERENDUM STRATEGY.

4. COMMENT: CONTRADICTIONS AND TENSION WITHIN PARTY ARE  
BREAKING SURFACE AS LEVESQUE GOVERNMENT IS FORCED TAKE ACTIONS  
WHICH DISPLEASE PQ'S MORE RADICAL SUPPORTERS. LEVESQUE IS WELL  
AWARE THAT ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM,  
AND EVEN PQ'S REELECTION, MUST COME FROM VOTERS WHO MAY HAVE  
QUEBEC NATIONALIST SYMPATHY BUT WHO ARE FRIGHTENED AND  
ANTAGONIZED BY THE SMALL BUT VOCAL MINORITY DEDICATED TO  
FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM. BY JUDICIOUS APPOINT-  
MENT TO PUBLIC OFFICE HE NEUTRALIZED MANY OF MOST VOCIFEROUS  
RADICALS. CHALLENGE THEY CONTINUE POSE TO PQ'S COHESION  
CAN CERTAINLY BE CONTAINED AS LONG AS THERE IS NO CRISIS  
INVOLVING PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, SHOULD GOQ BE FACED WITH MAJOR  
CHALLENGE FROM TRADE UNIONS AND ATTEMPT SETTLE CRISIS WITH  
FORCEFUL ACTION, PARTY DISCIPLINE MIGHT BE DIFFICULT  
TO MAINTAIN. MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** LEVESQUE COOLS PQ LEFT  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, CA  
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